

# Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

VOLUME 80

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—NOVEMBER 2003

NUMBER 11



**W**hen fall came again, the inhabitants of Plymouth colony had much to be thankful for. Governor William Bradford rose and offered a prayer. "Thank you Lord for sending Squanto to us. We know Your hand has been on him through all of his trials and that You have prepared him to be our guide and friend in a time of great need. Squanto is Your living answer to our tears and prayers."

With the help of Squanto, the pilgrims of Plymouth prospered and went on to establish a government under which every man could worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. God was preparing this land of freedom to be the place where His gospel would one day be restored.

—Adapted from "Squanto and the Miracle of Thanksgiving," by Eric Metaxas.

## ~ In This Issue ~

ARTICLE—The High Calling -  
*Apostle Roland Sarratt* . . . . . 211  
ARTICLE—Grace & Glory - *Elder David Larsen* 216  
SERIES—The Gift and Spirit of Revelation,  
Part 2 - *Apostle Roland Sarratt*. . . . . 218

SERIES—Pondering the Words of Jesus Christ,  
Items 10-12 - *Apostle William A. Sheldon* . . . 223  
SERIES—Articles of Faith & Practice,  
Article 11 - *Elder Gordon McCann* . . . . . 225  
OBITUARY—*Pauline Marie Brain* . . . . . 227

**ZION'S ADVOCATE** is the official publication of the Church of Christ, with headquarters on the Temple Lot, 200 S. River Blvd., P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472. Telephone (816) 833-3995 or (816) 833-3914. The Church of Christ web site is: [www.churchofchrist-tl.org](http://www.churchofchrist-tl.org).

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:** Church of Christ members' subscriptions are paid from general Church funds, but donations are requested (suggested: \$4.00 each year). In bundles of 12 or more for missionary purposes the rate is \$2.00.

Non-member rates: \$4.00 per year; foreign orders add 50¢.

Send subscription requests with appropriate fees, donations to Church funds (Temple & Storehouse), consecrations, tithes and all other offerings to the Business Manager at Church headquarters as listed below.

**PRIESTHOOD VISITATION:** If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed below.

## THE APOSTLES' MISSIONARY FIELDS

**Apostle William A. Sheldon**, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-461-8956.

**GENERAL CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE IN THE OFFICE** assisted by Elder Charles Brantner, Evangelist Marvin Case, Elder Leslie Case, Elder Nicholas Denham, Elder Randy Sheldon and Elder Gerald Cox.

**Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse**, 5713, Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214.

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces Canada, Africa, Asian Sub Continent, Europe, Western Russia, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

**Apostle Frank Fann**, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-373-4346.

Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, the Asian Rim and Eastern Russia.

**Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu**, 99i Calle 24 x 17 y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico.

Caribbean, Latin America, South America, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

**Apostle Michael E. McGhee**, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255.

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces Canada, the Asian Rim, and Eastern Russia.

**Apostle Brian E. McIndoo**, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900.

Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Africa, Asian Sub Continent, Europe, Western Russia, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

**Apostle Donald E. McIndoo**, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1240.

California, Nevada, Latin America, South America, the Caribbean, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations.

**Apostle Alvin J. Moser**, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414.

Arizona, New Mexico, Latin America, South American, the Caribbean, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations.

**Apostle Roland L. Sarratt**, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605.

Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, Greenland, and Iceland.

**Apostle Joel Yates**, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296.

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nunavut, Northwest and Yukon Territories, Greenland, Iceland, and Missionary Outreach to Youth.

**Apostle Placido Koyoc Yam**, 99h Calle 24 x 17 y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico.

Caribbean, Latin America, South America, and to assist in areas with Spanish speaking populations.

**UNDEVELOPED AREAS:** Council of Apostles in charge.



## GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse  
5713 Logan Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

### SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case  
8312 Lee's Summit Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

### GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel  
9800 E. 32nd Street S.  
Independence, Missouri 64052

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris  
Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 472  
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

### GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Rick Olson  
5629 Logan Road  
Kansas City, MO 64136

## ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

### EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann  
18808 N. 30th Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85050  
E-mail: [gjmccann@cox.net](mailto:gjmccann@cox.net)

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Jim Case  
15018 S. Outer Belt Road  
Lone Jack, Missouri 64070

Marlene Oar  
19012 N. 29th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85050

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

## WRITTEN MATERIAL REQUESTED

Priesthood articles and sermons, testimonies for Pathlights, submissions to other regular monthly *Zion's Advocate* features, and news items of Church-wide interest are requested, and should be sent to the Editor as listed above. Deadline for material requiring publication in any certain month is the 10th of the previous month.

Format of submitted material: Please type all submissions (if possible), on one side of the paper only. Please avoid overuse of underlining, ALL-CAPS and *italics*. The most important thing, though, is to send the material—the staff can arrange for typing or otherwise preparing anything you send.

Word Processors/Computers: We can utilize text files on IBM or compatible computer floppy disk of any size or format and nearly any word processor. If you have this capability, it is a big help to our process.

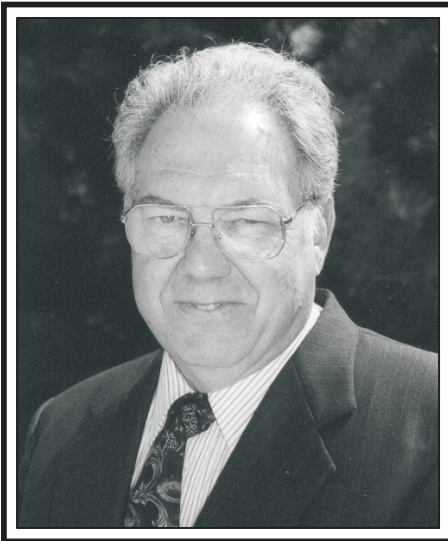
## STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;  
To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

# THE HIGH CALLING



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

**W**e who are members of the Church of Christ have claimed the distinction of having the fullness of the gospel of Christ which was restored to us in these latter days both in word and authority. Just how worthy we are to claim such an honor is questionable. If we individually have comprehended the word of God we know that each of us have been called to be more than just a church member; we have been

called to be perfect in Christ (Moroni 10:30).

There is no greater calling, and the challenge may seem too great to be real to our natural thinking. Perhaps we should ask a couple of questions: are we able to respond to the imposing thought that we are to be like Jesus Christ? Can we dare to hope that we could overcome the ugly human ways that keep us from attaining that higher level of righteousness to which we have been called?

The scriptures repeatedly tell us that with the help of the Spirit of God and the teachings of Christ we can be like Jesus Christ. More than that, Jesus Himself commands us to follow His example. With such positive instructions we cannot let the carnal man with his multitude of excuses persuade us to think or do otherwise.

The Lord is very much aware of our situation. He gave us sufficient information, even in plainness, that we might rise above the many stumbling-blocks which are charac-

**If we individually have comprehended the word of God we know that each of us have been called to be more than just a church member; we have been called to be perfect in Christ.**

teristic of the Gentile times. Let us go to the words of Christ which He spoke from the mount to the multitude that gathered to hear him as he began his ministry to the Jews:

*Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for*



*them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:43-48).*

Quite often we are inclined to just quote the 48th verse, not considering the point that Jesus was making. To be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect is truly a commandment to all of us, but to isolate it from what Jesus had just stated previously does not give sufficient understanding for the reason of the commandment.

Most of the people to whom Jesus was speaking at that time knew very little about the plan of salvation which He had just commenced teaching them. If any of them had been baptized it would have been by John the Baptist. What Jesus was introducing to them was practically new to that generation. For that reason He countered what they had been taught with a new commandment, love your enemies, etc. He then explained why they should love their enemies and pointed them to their heavenly Father as one Who loves all mankind. The Father

is our example of love and the very origin of love. He is indeed perfect in all things.

Throughout the sermon on the mount Jesus gave certain commandments, and also gave adequate reasons for the commandments, which are based upon the divine will of God. The authority by which He spoke was given Him of the Father, which contrasted the teachings of the Jews. He did not philosophize the truth, but spoke as one having superior knowledge and divine authority, which indeed He did.

Jesus himself was experiencing a great trial by confronting a rebellious people. At the same time He was being tested for his obedience to the Father. Paul explained it this way:

*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec (Heb. 5:8-10).*

Through His obedience to the Father Jesus exemplified the very words He spoke. Every commandment was taught in word and in deed by the Son of God. He truly lived the gospel which He taught. He was the perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world. He provided the means to redeem us from the fall of man.

The fact that Jesus had to go through certain grievous trials that He might learn obedience gives us a special insight

into our own situation. Jesus had to partake of that bitter cup to prove to the Father that He was worthy to be that perfect sacrifice. He did not suffer to overcome His own sins as we might have to do, for He had none. His suffering was part of the sacrifice which draws us ever closer to Him in knowing that He gave himself totally to atone for the sins of the world. His suffering may not exempt us from having to suffer also in a similar way that we might personally learn obedience. We must trust that whatever trials or persecutions we might experience are a test of God to prove that we will obey Him regardless of what we might deem just in our eyes.

By the reasoning of our minds we might say that Jesus' suffering was unjust, and in truth it was. Jesus did nothing to deserve the suffering and death that He experienced. No tribunal of justice would convict Him in heaven or in earth; only a people hardened in sin would demand such a horrible death as He suffered. This unjust persecution was passed on to Jesus' disciples:

*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you (John 15:18, 19).*

Beyond the comprehension of man is the divine will of God. In Him is the bittersweet love

that requires those created in His likeness to prove their love to Him by simply doing what He asks them to do. This is particularly revealed in scriptural history. Abraham was commanded to take his only son into the mount to sacrifice him. Only when Abraham raised the knife to bring the fatal wound of death did the angel stop him. As the great and last sacrifice, Jesus suffered that fatal wound of death.

Whether or not we are able to comprehend a sense of righteousness in that action, we are convicted by the higher level of divine truth contained in the thought that it is right in the eyes of God. It is the Father's imposing will that the sacrifice had to be accomplished to bring us all into submission to His will. As we face this fact we have no recourse to think otherwise unless we harden our hearts against God and go contrary to His will, which brings everlasting condemnation. In doing that we have proven nothing. Only in submission to the will of the Father, which is exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ, can we hope for the salvation of our souls which was provided by Jesus. Jesus did the will of the Father contrary to His own will and allowed Himself to be sacrificed for our sins.

Truly the plan of salvation given of God can save us from our sins, which makes us pure and clean before Him. God did not send His only begotten Son to save us in our sins, for we cannot stand in the presence of

God guilty of unrepented sins. Therefore this day of probation is given for us to prepare ourselves by repenting of our sins, putting off those things that are an offense unto God and putting on the things that are characteristic of Christ. Jesus is our example, our teacher and our Savior.

In consideration of this we might think of the commandment to be perfect as a goal for us to endeavor to reach, and this we are to do no matter how impossible it might seem at times. Two other commandments that go with this commandment are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves (see Mark 12:30, 31). These also are goals that might seem difficult at times. The one simple truth about these commandments is the high calling Christ has given to us to strive to attain. This can only be reached by striving to be like him.

There are many points in the scriptures concerning these commandments which adequately point us to the goal of perfection. First we need to consider how we are to be perfected and what parts of our being are we going to concentrate on in being perfected. There are three specific areas that are pointed out in the scriptures: knowledge, desire and works. Knowledge is attained through our mind or intellect, our heart is the seat of desire and our works give evidence of both our knowledge and our desires through our words and actions.

Knowledge is usually ob-

tained by observation and study, but quite often we simply learn by trial and error. A true knowledge of divine things goes through a process of exercising our faith and hope in what we read, hear or observe. By contemplating the worth of such things we are led to give heed to them and to put them to test in our own lives. If they prove to be worthy of our trust we alter our lifestyle by self application, making them moral laws in our minds.

If our endeavors to know the truth stops at the intellectual level we have learned nothing that will benefit us. Our knowledge will make us accountable in that we know what is right and wrong, but if we fail to choose good over evil that knowledge becomes condemnation to us. The scriptures indicate that we would be better off not knowing the truth.

A person can have a head knowledge of the truth of the gospel of Christ and not really know it in his heart. To know the truth in our hearts is to have an appreciation of the truth. That usually requires a spiritual experience that has touched our spirit and given us a desire to receive more of the same. In turn this gives us a desire to share our experience with others. The next step is to move out in faith in doing good works. That big word "do" is the proof that we have truly learned the truth. It is that which produces good works and our works will stand as evidence when we are judged at the last day.

Mormon recorded the words that Christ spoke to his disciples just prior to his departure:

*Write the things which ye have seen and heard, save it be those which are forbidden; write the works of this people, which shall be even as hath been written of that which hath been; For behold, out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people be judged, for by them shall their works be known unto men. And behold, all things are written by the Father; therefore out of the books which shall be written, shall the world be judged. And know ye that ye shall be judges of this people, according to the judgment which I shall give unto you, which shall be just; Therefore what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, Even as I am. And now I go unto the Father (3 Ne.13:1-5).*

Jesus commissioned His disciples to be the judges of that people and with that commission He admonished them to be like Him. Perfect judgement requires perfection of the judge. His calling to His disciples was nothing less than to be perfect.

Earlier Mormon wrote these words expressly to us:

*And now there can not be written in this book, even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people; but behold the plates of Nephi do contain the*

*more part of the things which he taught the people; And these things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus hath spoken. And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them. And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation. Behold I was about to write them all which were engraven upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbid it, saying, I will try the faith of my people; therefore I, Mormon, do write the things which have been commanded me of the Lord (3 Ne.12:1-5).*

From these words we realize we have less than a hundredth part of the words of Christ which he spoke to the Nephites. If we have questions pertinent to the church today surely the answers are forthcoming. What we need are the "greater things" so that the church can be made ready for His return. Something must happen first. We must meet the trial of our faith by the words which have been given us. We must prove our worthiness by

obeying what we have received.

It might appear that the words which have been written are sufficient for our present needs if indeed we are to be judged by them. The simple truth is that we are still at a disadvantage if we do not fulfill the purpose of the scriptures, which is to perfect our faith to the point that we will be worthy to receive the other words of Christ which are forthcoming. Since we haven't received them after all these years, we have to assume that we have failed the test of our faith. We have not believed and obeyed what we have received sufficiently.

Again Mormon quotes the words of Christ:

*And it shall come to pass, that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world. And he that endureth not unto the end, the same is he that is also hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence they can no more return, because of the justice of the Father: and this is the word which he hath given unto the children of men. And for this cause he fulfilled the words which he hath given, and he lieth not, but fulfilled all his words; and no unclean thing can enter into his kingdom; Therefore nothing entereth into his rest, save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith,*



*and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness unto the end. Now this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day. Verily, verily I say unto you, This is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do; For that which ye have seen me do, even that shall ye do; therefore if ye do these things, blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day (3 Nephi 12:29-35).*

Jesus addressed His disciples directly, leaving no excuse for not obeying His words. He gave them His gospel and told them simply that they knew the things that they must do which were the things that they had seen Him do. It is true that they had the advantage over us in that they not only had all His words, but also had witnessed firsthand His actions, which demonstrated His will.

Perfection is not necessarily a goal comparable to the various goals that we set for ourselves in our everyday lives. Perfection is a lifetime endeavor, for just when one might think he has reached it he will find he has yet more to do. The phrase, endure to the end, is precisely stated. One can fall away and rebel against God before reaching the end of life here

on earth.

For those of us who have repented of our sins and have been baptized, our hope is that we can endure to the end and stand guiltless before our Heavenly Father. This is done by being sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost.

As to our disadvantage of not having all the words Christ spoke to the Nephites, we might consider Abraham. He had neither the Book of Mormon nor the Bible. We are not told that he had any written scriptures. He simply believed God and it was counted as righteousness. My point is, we can have perfect faith with what we have in the scriptures, and if we don't stumble over what the Lord has given us we will surely receive all the scriptures promised to us.

Since Jesus spoke these words to His disciples we might think that they applied to them only. Of course the special commission of judging that people was a responsibility for them only. The commandment to be as He is, or in other words, be perfect, applies to us all. There is no double standard in perfection. We all have the potential of reaching that high standard.

Moroni challenged our faith in God with these inspired words:

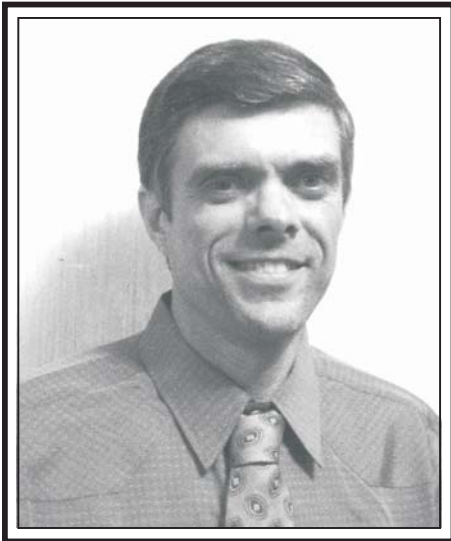
*And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent,*

*having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things (Moroni 10:4,5).*

Moroni's final words confirmed the thought that we must have more than knowledge; we must be perfected in Christ:

*Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot (Moroni 10:29, 30).*

# GRACE & Glory



By Elder David Larsen

If you want to ruin a good book, read the ending first. If you are scanning to see if you want to read it, read a little here and a little there. I scanned through the endings of Apostle Paul's letters. I will quote the endings.

Romans 16:27 *"To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen."*

I Corinthians 16:23,24 *"The*

*grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen."*

II Corinthians 13:14 *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."*

Galatians 6:18 *"Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."*

Ephesians 6:24 *"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."*

Philippians 4:23 *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."*

Colossians 4:18 *"The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen."*

I Thessalonians 5: 28 *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."*

I Thessalonians 3:18 *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."*

The last verses in the books of Timothy, Titus, Philemon and Hebrews are all similar

with reference to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was obviously a salutation much as we sign sincerely to close a letter. In Revelations 22:21, John closes with, *"The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."* Paul, Peter and John put a lot of emphasis on grace; in particular, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is grace? Webster's definition: 1. Beauty or charm of form, composition, movement, or expression. Elegance with appropriate dignity. 2. An attractive quality, feature, manner, etc. 3. A sense of what is right and proper. Decency. 4. A disposition to grant something freely. Favor, good will.

What is the grace Of Jesus Christ? Hint: It is of God and Jesus Christ. It comes to you with the Glory of God. In Ephesians 4:4-8 we read:

*"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all,*



*and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."*

In Ephesians 2:8 we find, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"*

How would you use this grace? Marvin Ely once related a conversation he had with a man he was working with. Marvin was asked, "You're kinda churchy aren't you?" I was doing a farm related job for a lady who asked, "You are a Christian aren't you?"

"Yes," I replied.

"I could tell."

Is this, the grace of God and Jesus Christ, reflected in us? Is this the gift we can receive? My brother Tim was driving a harvest truck. As he started to move his truck he had the feeling he should look for his boss's young child. Walking around the truck he found the child sitting in front of the rear duals. If this is grace given by Jesus, how do we keep it?

Romans 5:1-4 tells us:

*"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope...."*

By faith we have access to

grace through Jesus Christ. If we have this grace then we have peace with God. With peace we have hope and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. It is not always easy. Anything worthy of eternal life in the Kingdom of God takes effort. We will have tribulation. Tribulation works patience and patience experience. Experience is something you do not get for nothing. With experience we learn to have hope. With hope we are not ashamed. We should not be ashamed to say, "Yes, I am a Christian." We should not be ashamed if we feel the Holy Ghost-the love of God-fall upon us and stir our emotions. It goes to the core of our being.

Romans 5:5: *"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*

Our hearts are filled with grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and we give the glory to God. Christ told us to use the love He has given to us.

John 15:12-14 *"This is my commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."*

What more can we want than to have a friend like Jesus? Our tribulation is like that of Christ's. The world does not like us. Christ told us to expect this as we read on in the same chapter of John verses 18-19:

*"If the world hate you, ye*

*know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."*

The law of God takes possession of those who do not follow His commandments once they know of Jesus Christ. The word was fulfilled that is written in their law: *"They hate Jesus without a cause."* In Romans 5:20-21 we read:

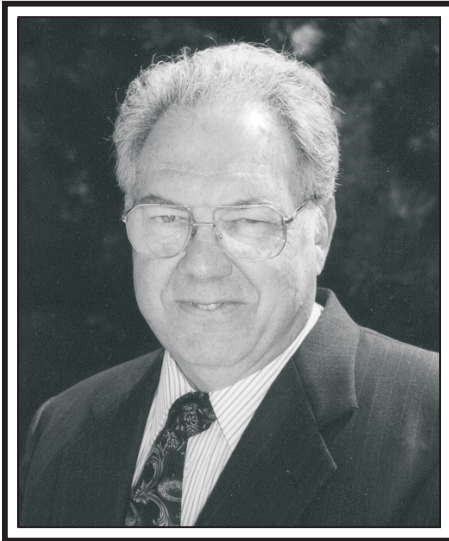
*"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Our gracious Lord wants us to have character. This includes charitableness, gentleness, courage, hope, kindness, knowledge, longsuffering, love, meekness, mercy, patience, peace, perseverance, purity, righteousness, good fruits, stability, temperance and wisdom. When you receive the grace of Jesus Christ think on these things and give glory to God because we have a knowledge of Him. Embrace the grace given. Feed on it and apply it to your life every day.

II Peter 3: 18 *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen."*

# THE GIFT AND SPIRIT OF REVELATION

THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED FOR THE 2002 AUGUST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE  
OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BY APOSTLE ROLAND SARRATT



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

## BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH REVELATION AND PROPHECY

It would also be wisdom that the ministry seek to understand and become familiar with the gift and spirit of revelation and prophecy. By searching the scriptures many truths concerning the ancient proph-

## PART #2

ets, who were responsible for receiving and writing the word of God which we have today, can enlighten our minds and spirits wherein we also can experience such gifts. Through the direct guidance of the Spirit we can more completely fulfill our duties as servants of God.

A basic fact of revelation is explained by Mormon:

*“For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge: for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ...”* Moroni 7:14.

Obviously that which would persuade men to do evil is

**It is a challenge for many of us to open our minds and hearts to hear what might be a little different than our present thinking, but we dare not resist the Spirit of God lest we offend Him and He withdraws His Spirit.**

of the devil.

The Spirit of Christ makes it possible for man to judge more correctly. If the natural man reasons it out in his own mind he has not allowed the Spirit to intervene and transmit

the divine truth. He must be willing to let divine inspiration control his thinking.

What an interesting thought that God would grace all humanity with such a gift, even when only a few might be privileged to realize from whence the gift has come! This should broaden our thinking as to the bestowal of spiritual gifts. Peter said, *"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons"* Acts 10:34.

---

## GOD RAISES UP PROPHETS AS HE WILL

Moses was a prophet of God raised up to do a special work. By direction of the Lord he ordained his brother Aaron as a priest, and the Levitical priesthood was continued through Aaron, giving us that special example of the calling and ordination of a minister of God (see Exodus 28:1; 29:5-7; 40:12-16; Hebrews 5:4). However, very few of the prophets that God used to warn His people were of the tribe of Levi or of that priesthood. This is not to say that God would not use His ministers to give prophecy or revelation, but there is no indication that only an ordained minister can give prophecy or revelation. Neither is there a provision for an established office in the Church of Christ as an ordained prophet, as is practiced by some churches.

The scriptures unfold various accounts of God working through His servants, which tell us that God is not limited to

any certain order or way. We are told that the Lord spoke face to face with Moses (Exodus 33:11). Isaiah, on the other hand, heard the voice of the Lord and he responded by saying, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8). On one occasion the Lord spoke to Abram (Abraham) in a vision (Genesis 15:1); and Jacob, his grandson, wrestled with an angel before receiving a special blessing which Jacob desired. That blessing was the bestowal of the name Israel (Genesis 32:24-28).

Jeremiah was ordained a prophet before he was born and sent to speak to the nations while he was just a child (Jeremiah 1:4-10). Samuel was dedicated to the Lord by his mother, and the Lord spoke to Samuel while he was yet just a child to prepare him to be a prophet (1 Samuel 1:22-28; 3:1-14). Amos said:

*"I was no prophet neither a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: and the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel"* Amos 7:14,15.

The Lord revealed to Daniel the "secret" of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in a night vision (Daniel 2:19). Lehi was moved upon to prophesy to the Jews and he received a vision from the Lord (1 Nephi 2:41-85). Nephi, his son, desired to also receive a vision, and the Lord responded to his petition granting him a vision

which was recorded and is of great value to us today (1 Nephi 3:37-256). Through faith the Brother of Jared saw the Lord before He came in the flesh (Ether 1:69-77). He was also blessed by receiving a vision which he recorded and sealed. It is yet to be brought forth in these last days as the Lord has promised (Ether 1:86-92, 100, 101).

There are many accounts telling us that the Lord sends angels to deliver His word. Alma says men, women and children receive words from God:

*"And now, behold, I say unto you; and I would that ye should remember that God is merciful unto all who believe on his name; therefore he desireth, in the first place, that ye should believe, yea, even on his word. And now, he imparteth his word by angels, unto men; yea, not only men, but women also. Now this is not all: little children do have words given unto them many times, which confound the wise and the learned"* Alma 16:144-146.

---

## GOD IMPARTS HIS WORD TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIM

However the Lord might choose to speak to the children of men it matters not. What does matter is the message He gives. Most importantly it matters if He does not speak. We have awakened from the dark ages and the miracles



and gifts of God are available to us today if we have sufficient faith. If we dwindle in unbelief we are the losers. We must have faith and desire the greater gifts.

We might soberly consider the words of Alma:

*“And now Alma began to expound these things unto him, saying, It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; Nevertheless they are laid under a strict command, that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word, which he doth grant unto the children of men; according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him; And therefore he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; And he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God, until they know them in full; And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word, until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; And then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction” Alma 9:15-20.*

## MYSTERIES OF GOD GIVEN TO BRING SOULS TO CHRIST

Compared to the normal thinking of man, many of the things recorded in the Bible and Book of Mormon are

mysteries that we understand and readily accept. It appears that there are yet many more things to be revealed to our understanding which would greatly benefit us today in bringing us into a greater unity and improve our ministering to the people. Alma speaks on this:

*And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there, that knoweth these things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things, save it be the penitent; Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing: unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; Yea, and it shall be given unto such, to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance” Alma 14:102-104.*

## THE NEED TO OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO GOD

If we have let our minds and attitudes be conditioned by the necessity of resisting the deceptiveness of false and changed revelations of this latter day period we must work to refocus our minds, not on the false, but on the truth. The truth is contained in the scriptures and we must search out those things that confirm a liv-

ing God Who speaks to His people today as He did in ages past. As King Benjamin commenced to deliver a proclamation to his people he made this statement:

*“For I have not commanded you to come up hither to trifle with the words which I shall speak, but that you should hearken unto me, and open your ears that ye may hear, and your hearts that ye may understand, and your minds that the mysteries of God may be unfolded to your view” Mosiah 1:39.*

It is a challenge for many of us to open our minds and hearts to hear what might be a little different than our present thinking, but we dare not resist the Spirit of God lest we offend Him and He withdraws His Spirit. The bestowal of His Spirit is God’s way of allowing us to know Him (see 1 Cor. 2:12,13). Our resistance, our complacency or our lack of interest tells Him we don’t want to know Him.

## NEPHI’S DESIRE TO KNOW THE MYSTERIES OF GOD

Throughout the scriptures we are told that we must repent and humble ourselves before God. This conditions our hearts and minds to receive God’s personal contacts, however He may choose to communicate with us. Nephi gives us his testimony concerning his efforts to reach the Lord:

*“And it came to pass that I,*

*Nephi, being exceeding young, nevertheless being large in stature, and also having great desires to know of the mysteries of God, Wherefore I did cry unto the Lord; and behold he did visit me, and did soften my heart that I did believe all the words which had been spoken by my father; wherefore I did not rebel against him like unto my brothers” 1 Nephi 1:47, 48.*

## THE HOLY GHOST REVEALS THE MYSTERIES OF GOD

**N**ephi was greatly gifted, especially in plainness. We are blessed to have his words today, for surely they are truths that address our problems most appropriately. The following quote speaks profoundly on the subject we are studying:

*“I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men; For he is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. And the way is prepared from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him; For he that diligently seeketh shall find; And the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them by the power of the Holy*

*Ghost, as well in this time as in times of old; And as well in times of old as in times to come; Wherefore, the course of the Lord is one eternal round” 1 Nephi 3:26-32.*

## SEARCHING THE PROPHECIES CONDITIONS US SPIRITUALLY

**D**are we say that there are mysteries yet to be unfolded to this people? Have we not stumbled from the lack of understanding of the scriptures? We stumble only because we haven't sought the Lord sufficiently to know His will. We can open the door of knowledge by opening the scriptures and allowing the detailed truth to penetrate our hearts and minds as it did to Nephi and the many other prophets who followed him. Nephi explained this to his brothers:

*“And now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had read these things which were engraven upon the plates of brass, my brethren came unto me and said unto me, What meaneth these things which ye have read? Behold, are they to be understood according to the things which are spiritual, which shall come to pass according to the spirit and not the flesh? And I, Nephi, said unto them, Behold, they were made manifest unto the prophet, by the voice of the Spirit: For by the Spirit are all things made known unto the prophets, which shall come upon the*

*children of men according to the flesh” 1 Nephi 7:1-4.*

## UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY BY THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

**N**ephi also explained that the prophecies of Isaiah and other ancient prophets are made plain to those who have the spirit of prophecy:

*“Wherefore, I write unto my people, unto all those that shall receive hereafter these things which I write, that they may know the judgments of God, that they come upon all nations, according to the word which he hath spoken. Wherefore hearken, O my people, which are of the house of Israel, and give ear unto my words: for because the words of Isaiah are not plain unto you, nevertheless, they are plain unto all those that are filled with the spirit of prophecy. But I give unto you a prophecy, according to the spirit which is in me; wherefore I shall prophesy according to the plainness which hath been with me from the time that I came out of Jerusalem with my father” 2 Nephi 11:4-6.*

Nephi's father, Lehi, also had the spirit of prophecy:

*“Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, this land is*

consecrated unto him whom he shall bring” 2 Nephi 1:10, 11.

---

## JACOB ELABORATES ON REVELATION AND PROPHECY

**N**ephi's brother, Jacob, tells us that the gifts of revelation and prophecy continued during his time:

*“And if there were preaching which was sacred, or revelation which was great, or prophesying, that I should engrave the heads of them upon these plates, and touch upon them as much as it were possible, for Christ's sake, and for the sake of our people: For because of faith and great anxiety, it truly had been made manifest unto us concerning our people, what things should happen unto them. And we also had many revelations, and the spirit of much prophesy; wherefore, we knew of Christ and his kingdom, which should come”* Jacob 1:4-6.

There seems to be a direct connection between searching the ancient prophecies and having the spirit of revelation and prophecy:

*“Wherefore, we search the prophets; and we have many revelations, and the spirit of prophecy, and having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very*

*trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea; Nevertheless, the Lord God sheweth us our weakness, that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things”* Jacob 3:7, 8.

Jacob continued to write on the subject of revelation and prophecy giving us one of the most profound sermons ever to be read or heard in modern times:

*“Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. And no man knoweth of his ways, save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God. For behold, by the power of his word, man came upon the face of the earth; which earth was created by the power of his word. Wherefore, if God, being able to speak, and the world was; and to speak, and man was created, O then, why not able to command the earth, or the workmanship of his hands upon the face of it, according to his will and pleasure. Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand. For behold, ye yourselves know, that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works; Wherefore, beloved brethren, be recon-*

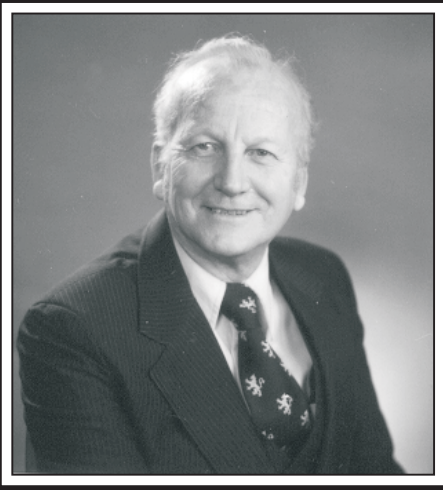
*ciled unto him, through the atonement of Christ, his only begotten Son”* Jacob 3:9-16.

Let us ponder these words in our hearts and minds. Let us seek to understand their meaning and to acquaint ourselves with the significance of revelation as Jacob describes here. Truly he understood the importance of being in tune with the spirit of revelation. He warns against despising revelation. He tells us to be willing to take counsel from the Lord and to be reconciled unto Him. We will be greatly blessed if we are willing to hear Him when He gives counsel, but if we resist His counsel because we are not receptive to His Spirit, we will fall victim to the devil's deception.

---



# Pondering the Words of JESUS CHRIST



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

## Item 10: The Light Of The World

Matt. 5:14-16 *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

3 Ne. 5: 61-63 *Verily, verily I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of this people. A city that is set on a hill can not be hid. Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house; Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and*

(Quotations are from the King James Authorized Edition of the Bible and from the 1908 RLDS Edition of the Book of Mormon; same chapters/verses as Independence Edition.)

*glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

The concept of human life being enlightened by the gospel of Christ is quite the opposite of that in which the “salt” has lost its savor. In both instances, Christ is suggesting that He is the way, the truth and the life. If men will come unto Him, it will be immeasurably better than for men to walk in the light of any other man, which is but a shadow at best and gross darkness at the worst. That which is in darkness is sometimes (not always) cast out by men, and much more-so by Him which is Light itself. The Spirit of Truth which comes from Christ is offended when rejected of men.

## Item 11: Fulfillment of the Law (The Mosaic Law)

Matt. 5:17-19 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the*

*same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

3 Ne. 5:64-68 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy but to fulfill; For verily I say unto you, One jot nor one tittle hath not passed away from the law, but in me it hath all been fulfilled. And behold I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father, that ye shall believe in me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Behold, ye have the commandments before you, and the law is fulfilled; therefore come unto me and be ye saved; For verily I say unto you, that except ye shall keep my commandments, which I have commanded you at this time, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

How much more clear is the Book of Mormon rendering than that of the Bible! Jesus Christ has fulfilled in every whit the law given through Moses, which, as Apostle Paul said, was a “schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ” (Gal. 3: 24). He had before said that “a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus

Christ" (Gal. 2: 16). Israel was bound to obey that "schoolmaster" until Christ should come in fulfillment thereof. Moses understood this when he said, as given by the Lord:

Deut. 18:18 *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.*

**Incidentally: when Paul further speaks to the Ephesians, as follows, it is to be understood in the light of his counsel to the Romans, and does not conform to sectarian church views regarding works and grace.**

Eph. 2: 8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**The following to the Romans reveals that the works referenced were those of the Mosaic Law.**

Rom. 9: 31-33 *But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

**OF COURSE WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE, the pure loving-kindness of God in sending His Son, who gave His life for the sins of mankind; and of course, the best of righteous works performed by a man is woefully insufficient to secure his salvation; but yet to as-**

**sume by this that human works of righteousness (obedience to God) have nothing to do with our salvation is manifestly erroneous.**

Mat 7:21 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

Luke 6:46 *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

Rev 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works (whether good or evil/ w.a.s.)*

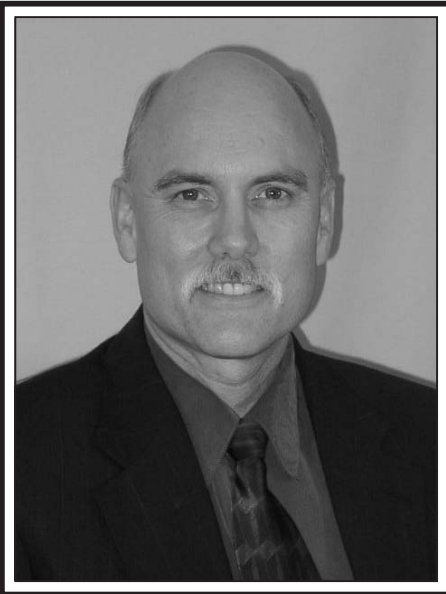
**Incidentally, Matt. 5:19, previously quoted above, lays the groundwork for the beautiful revelation of God's perfect justice, compassion and equity in the consignment of mankind at the bar of Final Judgment. In this connection, please read Matt. 18:4 and Luke 12: 47, 48. There are to be those who are "LEAST" as well as those who are to be "GREAT" in the "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN". By the same token, there will be those who will have been "beaten with many stripes", while others will have been "beaten with few stripes" (Lk. 12: 47, 48). All of this infers innumerable degrees of reward and punishment between these extremes. This last, concerning stripes, cannot be the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, which is the Second Death, but rather alludes to God's place of correction which is called hell or the "prison house" (see Isa. 42:7), or "outer darkness" (Al. 19:46).**

## Item 12: The Righteousness Of True Believers

Mat 5:20 *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

**While this text concerns men in the days of Jesus' earthly ministry, it is also a lesson for our generation, and we should compare "scribes and pharisees" to those of like haughty spirit, or who in any way degrade the pure simplicity and righteousness of the gospel of Christ in our time. It will apply to those who fail to teach repentance or the practice of baptism by immersion (and this by an ordained servant of God, he having been chosen by divine revelation) as also the laying on of hands to bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost. It will apply to those who presumably teach salvation by the grace of Christ, but will steadfastly deny the means by which that grace is received, i.e., a holy baptism and the righteousness of holy works to demonstrate the grace within, without which the profession of faith toward God is a sham. It will apply to all those who profess a faith in Christ and yet show by their words and deeds that their spirit is barren of the truth which is in Him.**

# Articles of Faith & Practice



(A continuation study by  
Elder Gordon McCann)

## Article #11

In the early church, after Christ's ascension, you find the church began to grow through preaching the words of Christ by the disciples. Those who believed and were baptized, then confirmed through reception of the gift of the Holy Ghost, were added to the Body of Christ.

The eleven remaining disciples were faithfully following the commission that the Lord had given them when He appeared unto them for the last time in Galilee upon a mountain, where He told them:

*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"* (Mat 28:18-20).

Through the efforts of the disciples, churches were being organized to nurture the spiritual growth of these newly baptized believers with the ordination of elders in every church (Acts 14:22-23; Titus 1:5). These endeavors of the disci-

## Article #11

We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of church extension when acting in harmony with the law of God.

ples were founded upon the principles given to them by Jesus Christ, Who had set in order His church on earth, promoting the truths of one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father. For these principles to stay viable in the lives of believers the Lord called individuals of His choosing to represent



Him on earth:

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ...” (Eph. 4-11-13)*

Elders were commissioned of Christ for the specific function to have the oversight of the flock of God in the local area where they lived. They have the power and authority of God to ordain other elders, priests and teachers. They also have the authority of God to baptize and confirm individuals into the Church of Christ through the “laying on of hands” to give the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:14-17, 19:1-6; Moroni 2:1-3; Book of Commandments 24:31-35), to heal the sick (James 5:14) and to administer the flesh and blood of Christ unto the Church. The elders lived in the area where the members of the Body of Christ lived, worked to support themselves, and were to be an example to the believer and non-believer alike in all things or aspects of his life. In 1 Tim

3:1-7 the word “bishop” is used in the place of elder. Bishop is another name for someone who is an “overseer” or has the direct responsibility for the care of a group of people. Also in Titus 1:5-7 the word “elder” and “bishop” were used interchangeably within the text.

At the time the Church of Christ was organized at Fayette, Seneca County, New York, on Tuesday April 6, 1830, according to the commandment of God by the direction of the Holy Ghost, there were a total of six members (ref. *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1805-1835; volume 1; ninth edition, 1911; page 77, paragraph 2*). The Church of Christ has since adopted through several Referendum Bills (Bill No 2, 1935 and Bill No. 1, 1960) the position that there must be a minimum number of six baptized members meeting regularly, one of whom must be an ordained elder, before a recognized local of the Church of Christ can exist.

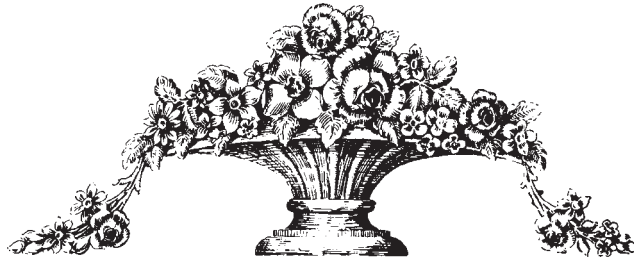
*“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof,*

*not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away...” (1 Pet 5:1).*

OBITUARY

# Pauline Marie Brain

January 30, 1930~September 17, 2003



Pauline Marie Milstead entered life on January 30, 1930, the second daughter of Forrest and Mary Milstead. She was born during a blizzard in a tiny little settlement, Nobscot, near Fay, Oklahoma. She and her family came to Boise in 1936 and she attended Boise schools. She loved music and often sang with her sisters.

Pauline met Charles "Chuck" Brain while she was working as a waitress at the Greyhound Bus Depot. Although she was reluctant to date an air force man, he soon won her heart and they were married on June 21, 1947. They built a home in Garden City where they raised four children: Raymond, Robert,

Connie and Rick. She loved to paint and sold pictures to people from Hawaii to New York. She was fortunate enough to earn a living doing something she loved. Pauli taught painting classes and gained many friendships through her art. Chuck and Pauli also made jewelry from stones that Chuck cut and polished.

Pauline passed away Wednesday, September 17, 2003, after a courageous battle with cancer.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 56 years, Charles; her four children: Raymond and wife, Sherry Brain; Robert and wife, Debbie Brain; Connie Brain; Rick and wife, Brenda Brain; 12 grandchildren; 11 great grandchil-

dren; and sisters Irene Mitchell and Ginger Smith

Pauline was preceded in death by her daughter Louise, both her parents and two brothers.

A celebration of her life was held at 2 p.m. Monday, September 22nd.

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2003 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 4, 5 and 6, at Independence, Missouri.

The **2004 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 4. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 5. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on April 2 & 3. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the **Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472**

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	Price Each†
Members (optional) .....	\$4.00
Non-Members .....	4.00
Foreign .....	4.50
Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape .....	1.85
Book of Commandments (plastic bound) .....	6.00
Book of Commandments (hard bound) .....	9.00
Book of Commandments Controversy Reviewed .....	4.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic) .....	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—hard bound) .....	18.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (plastic) .....	5.00
Book of Mormon Companion, A (hard bound) .....	12.00
Book of Mormon Concordance .....	8.00
Changing of the Revelations .....	.50
Libro De Mormon (Spanish) .....	7.00
Marvelous Work and a Wonder, A, by Daniel MacGregor .....	4.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ .....	9.65
Temple Lot Deed .....	.30
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God .....	2.50
Zion's Hymnal (members) .....	15.00
Zion's Hymnal (non-members) .....	18.00

† Cost of mailing will be added.

### THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:\*

Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830	De La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish)
Apostasy from the New Testament Church	Book of Commandments Commentary)
Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ	Evidences of the Book of Mormon
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	First Presidency or First Apostles?
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	God's Promises to Israel
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	God's Purpose in America
Book of Commandments, The - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	Great Plan of Redemption, The
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
Brief History of the Church of Christ, A	Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem, The
Call to National Repentance, A - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ	Latter Day Apostasy, A
Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day, The - Sunday	Latter Day Restoration, The
Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box, 2) Did you Know?, 3) Epistle to American Indians, 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk	Priesthood—Divine Authority
Concerning Marriage and Polygamy	Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
Cost of Salvation, The	Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?	Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion	Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
	Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
	Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
	Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
	That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
	What about the Book of Mormon?
	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
	Zion and the Temple of the Lord

\*Note: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage)

## Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
 TEMPLE LOT  
 200 S. RIVER BLVD.  
 P. O. BOX 472  
 INDEPENDENCE, MO 64051-0472

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 INDEP., MO  
 PERMIT NO. 259

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

### AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

The following materials are available on loan to members of the Church of Christ from the Audio, Video, Visual-Aid and Archeology Committee:

#### SLIDE PROGRAMS WITH TAPED NARRATION

Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

Allow adequate advance time for handling and shipping, and for your own preview of the programs. Write to the AVVAA Committee, Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472.

**LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A** (32 minutes)—Directed specifically toward American Indian viewers, compiled from three other programs.

**LIGHT AT EVENING** (27 minutes)—Story of the bringing forth of the book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Christ in the 1820's and 1830.

**OUT OF THE DUST** (45 minutes)—Tells the story found within the Book of Mormon.

**RETURN, THE** (12 minutes)—Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ, especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

#### HOLY SCRIPTURES ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE

Complete set narrating the King James Version of the Bible New Testament and a set of the entire Book of Mormon. Write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139. Specify which set is desired and the estimated length of time you expect to use it.

#### SERMONS ON AUDIO & VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES

For a sermon on cassette tape write to Dan Lawrence, 8420 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64139; on video tape contact your local missionary.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS

Send orders for Sunday School materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 West Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

**Bible Stories to Grow By**—52 Lessons about God and Jesus for ages 5-7

**Book in the Stone Box, The**—About the Book of Mormon

**Church History for Juniors**—Includes a Teacher's Guide

**Jesus' Life and Teachings**—4 Quarterlies for ages 8-10

**Who Am I?**—Bible game on cards; free to Sunday Schools/\$1.30 to individuals.